

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 5, 8-16, 18-21, 23, 27-28, 31, 33-36, 38-39, 41, and 44-51 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 16, 27, 36, and 44 being the independent claims.

The Applicant notes that the amendments to the claims have been made to expedite prosecution. The Applicant does not acquiesce to the rejections and reserves the right to pursue original claims, cancelled claims, and new claims in a continuation application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 7, 22, 32, and 44-51 include allowable subject matter.

The Objection To Claim 5 Has Been Rendered Moot

Claim 28 was objected to because of an informality. Accordingly, line 2 of claim 5 has been amended to recite "first" mount. The Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's objection to claim 5 has been rendered moot.

The Claims Are Patentable Over The Cited References

Claims 16, 18, 19, 21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,918,841 to Sweere et al. (the Sweere reference). Claims 1, 5, 8, 11-15, 20,

27, 28, 31, 33-36, and 38-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Sweere reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,179,261 to Lin (the Lin reference).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite subject matter of claim 7, which the Examiner indicated as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and those claims that depend therefrom are allowable over the Sweere reference and the Lin reference. The Applicant also respectfully requests that withdrawn claims 9 and 10 be allowed, as they depend from independent claim 1, which is allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

Independent claim 16 has been amended to recite subject matter of claim 22, which the Examiner indicated as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 16 and those claims that depend therefrom are allowable over the Sweere reference.

Independent claim 27 has been amended to recite subject matter of claim 32, which the Examiner indicated as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 33 and those claims that depend therefrom are allowable over the Sweere reference and the Lin reference.

Independent claim 36 has been amended to recite subject matter of claim 22, which the Examiner indicated as including allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 36 and those claims that depend therefrom are allowable over the Sweere reference and the Lin reference.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that such objections and rejections be withdrawn. The Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that further personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

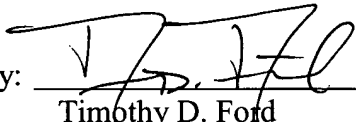
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,
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